Serial No. 09/692,949   - 2 -   Art Unit: 2153

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for ~~controlling causing a network device to locally perform a~~ data forwarding ~~related~~ service_in_, ~~wherein the~~ a network device_comprising_ ~~comprises~~ a data forwarding device, comprising the steps of:

receiving at the network device a document written in accordance with a markup language and a corresponding document definition, wherein the document describes ~~the~~ a data forwarding service;

parsing by the network device the received document in accordance with the corresponding document definition, wherein the parsing determines at least one parameter describing the data forwarding service; and

executing the data forwarding service on the network device in accordance with the parsed document.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of executing includes the step of interfacing with hardware and software on the network device.

3. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the markup language is XML.

4. (original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the corresponding document definition is an XML DTD.

5. (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

retrieving the corresponding document definition from a plurality of document definitions in accordance with an identifier in the received document.

6. (original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the plurality of document definitions are provided in a local storage of the network device.

7. (original) A method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of:

retrieving the corresponding document definition from a plurality of document definitions in accordance with an identifier in the received document.

8. (original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the plurality of document definitions are provided in a local storage of the network device.

9. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of parsing includes the step of parsing from the document an identifier corresponding to the service.

10. (original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the step of parsing further includes the step of parsing from the document runtime parameters corresponding to the service.

11. (original) A method according to claim 5, further including the step of:

instantiating an object corresponding to the service in accordance with the parsed identifier.

12. (original) A method according to claim 10, further including the step of:

instantiating an object corresponding to the service in accordance with the parsed identifier and the parsed runtime parameters.

13. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the network device comprises one of a router, a switch, and a hub.

14. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the network device comprises a packet forwarding architecture.

15. (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of preparing a response corresponding to the executed service.

Serial No. 09/692,949   - 4 -   Art Unit: 2153

16. (original) A method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of forwarding the response to a remote requestor of the service.

17. (currently amended) A network device for locally performing a data forwarding related service in response to a remote request, wherein the network device comprises a data forwarding device, comprising:

      means for receiving at the network device a document written in accordance with a markup language and a corresponding document definition, wherein the document describes the ~~a~~ data forwarding service;

      means for parsing by the network device the received document in accordance with the corresponding document definitions, wherein the parsing determines at least one parameter describing the data forwarding service; and

      means for executing the data forwarding service on the network device in accordance with the parsed document.

18. (original) A network device according to claim 17, wherein the means for executing includes means for interfacing with hardware and software on the network device.

19. (original) A network device according to claim 17, wherein the markup language is XML.

20. (original) A network device according to claim 19, wherein the corresponding document definition is an XML DTD.

21. (original) A network device according to claim 17, further comprising:

      means for retrieving the corresponding document definition from a plurality of document definitions in accordance with an identifier in the received document.

22. (original) A network device according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of document definitions are provided in a local storage of the network device.

23. (original) A network device according to claim 19, further comprising:

    means for retrieving the corresponding document definition from a plurality of document definitions in accordance with an identifier in the received document.

24. (original) A network device according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of document definitions are provided in a local storage of the network device.

25. (original) A network device according to claim 17, wherein the means for parsing includes means for parsing from the document an identifier corresponding to the service.

26. (original) A network device according to claim 25, wherein the means for parsing further includes means for parsing from the document runtime parameters corresponding to the service.

27. (original) A network device according to claim 21, further including:

    means for instantiating an object corresponding to the service in accordance with the parsed identifier.

28. (original) A network device according to claim 26, further including:

    means for instantiating an object corresponding to the service in accordance with the parsed identifier and the parsed runtime parameters.

29. (original) A network device according to claim 17, wherein the network device comprises one of a router, a switch, and a hub.

30. (original) A network device according to claim 17, wherein the network device comprises a packet forwarding architecture.

31. (original) A network device according to claim 17, further comprising means for preparing a response corresponding to the executed service.

Serial No. 09/692,949   - 6 -   Art Unit: 2153

32. (original) A network device according to claim 30, further comprising means for forwarding the response to a remote requestor of the service.

33. (currently amended) A network device for locally performing a data forwarding ~~related~~ service in accordance with a received document written in a document markup language, wherein the network device comprises a data forwarding device, comprising:

      a parser that is adapted to parse the received document in accordance with a document definition to obtain an identifier of the service, wherein the parsing determines at least one parameter describing the data forwarding service; and

      a service launcher that is adapted to launch the data forwarding service corresponding to the identifier parsed from the received document.

34. (original) A network device according to claim 33, further comprising:

      a network data transfer service that is adapted to communicate with remote devices for receiving the document.

35. (original) A network device according to claim 34, wherein the network data transfer service comprises an HTTP server.

36. (original) A network device according to claim 33, wherein the markup language is XML.

37. (original) A network device according to claim 36, wherein the document definition is an XML DTD.

38. (original) A network device according to claim 33, further comprising a document definition storage coupled to the parser that stores a plurality of document definitions, the parser being further adapted to select the document definition from the stored plurality of document definitions in accordance with a document definition identifier.

Serial No. 09/692,949   - 7 -   Art Unit: 2153

39. (original) A network device according to claim 33, further comprising a services storage coupled to the service launcher that stores a plurality of services, the service launcher being further adapted to select the service from the stored plurality of services in accordance with the parsed identifier.

40. (original) A network device according to claim 33, further comprising an Oplet Runtime Environment, the service launcher being further adapted to launch the service under the Oplet Runtime Environment.

41. (original) A network device according to claim 33, further comprising a packet forwarding switch fabric.

42. (original) A network device according to claim 41, wherein the launched service causes changes in how packets are forwarded through the packet forwarding switch fabric.

43. (original) A network device according to claim 41, wherein the launched service monitors performance indicators of how packets are forwarded through the packet forwarding switch fabric.

44. (original) A network device according to claim 41, wherein the launched service accesses a MIB on the network device.

45. (original)A network device according to claim 33, further comprising device APIs for interoperating with device hardware and software for executing the launched services.

46. (original) A network device according to claim 40, further comprising device APIs for interoperating with device hardware and software for executing the launched services.

47. (original) A network device according to claim 41, further comprising device APIs for interoperating with device hardware and software for executing the launched services.

Serial No. 09/692,949   - 8 -   Art Unit: 2153

48. (currently amended) A method for causing a network device to locally perform a data forwarding ~~related~~ service, wherein the network device comprises a data forwarding device, comprising the steps of:

identifying the data forwarding service to be performed at a remote client computer;

preparing at the remote client computer a document written in a markup language in accordance with a document definition, the document including an identifier of the service, wherein the document describes ~~the~~ a data forwarding service;

transmitting the document to the network device;

identifying at the network device the document definition corresponding to the transmitted document;

parsing by the network device the transmitted document in accordance with the corresponding document definition, wherein the parsing determines at least one parameter describing the data forwarding service; and

executing the data forwarding related service on the network device in accordance with the parsed document.

49. (original) A method according to claim 48, wherein the markup language is XML.

50. (original) A method according to claim 49, wherein the corresponding document definition is an XML DTD.